

REMARKS

Claims 5-24 are pending. Claims 5, 10, 15 and 20 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Disclaimers Relating to Claim Interpretation and Prosecution History Estoppel

Claims 5, 10, 15 and 20 have been amended, notwithstanding the belief that these claims were allowable. Except as specifically admitted below, no claim elements have been narrowed. Rather, cosmetic amendments have been made to the claims.

The claims of this application are intended to stand on their own and are not to be read in light of the prosecution history of any related or unrelated patent or patent application. Furthermore, no arguments in any prosecution history relate to any claim in this application, except for arguments specifically directed to the claim.

Amendments to the Claims

In response to the Examiner's suggestion, independent claims 5, 10, 15 and 20 have been amended to add the limitation, "wherein the messages do not pass through the crossbar". Claims 5, 10, 15 and 20 have been amended solely for the purpose of expediting the patent application process, and the amendments were not necessary for patentability. In addition, clarifying amendments were made to claims 15 and 20.

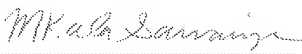
In view of all of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested and allowance at an early date is solicited.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney to answer any questions or to discuss steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

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Amdt. Dated 10/24/2006

Respectfully submitted.

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